

Appl. No. 10/612,254
Amdt. Dated July 26, 2005
Reply to Office Action of March 30, 2005

• • R E M A R K S / A R G U M E N T S • •

The present Supplemental Amendment presents the same claim amendments that were presented in applicant's Amendment filed June 30, 2005. In addition, applicant's previous arguments presented in the Amendment filed June 30, 2005 are incorporated herein by reference.

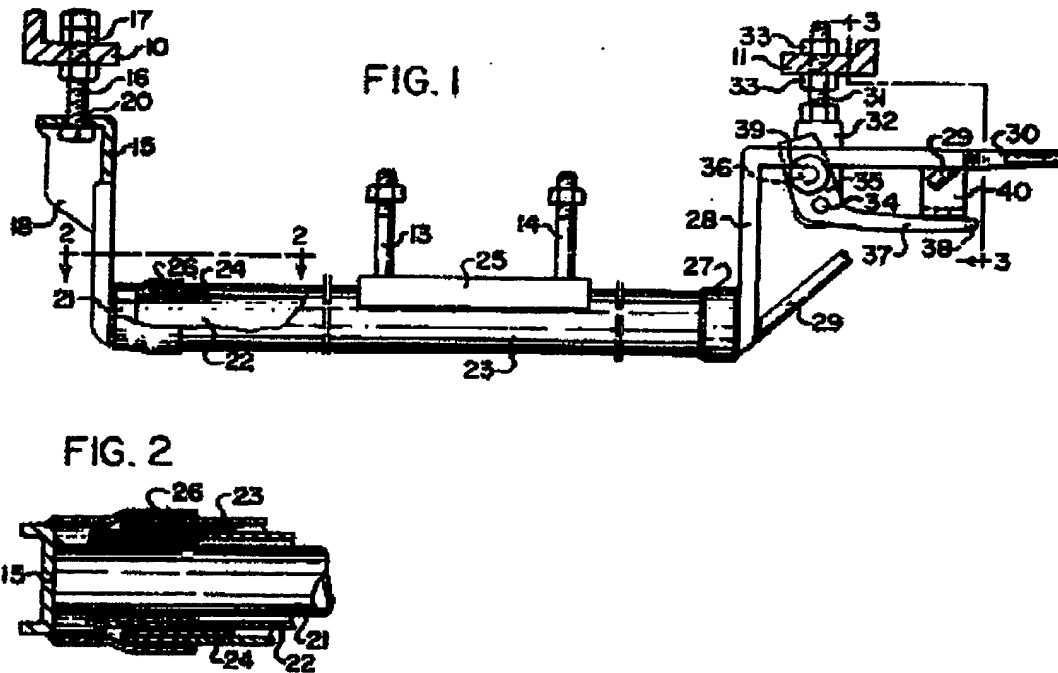
In response to applicant's amendment filed June 30, 2005 the Examiner mailed an Advisory Action (mailed July 14, 2005) in which the Examiner stated:

The amendment fails to overcome the art of record. With respect to claims 1 & 9 upper and lower plates are opposed to each other in that upper plate 26, 23 are above, i.e. opposite, lower plate 24, 22. Broadly construed "opposed" comprises two objects adjacent each other. www.dictionary.com.

The claims remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No 3,648,867 to Beavers.

What the Examiner construes as "upper plates 26, 23" and "lower plates 24, 22" in Beavers are shown in Figs. 1 and 2 as follows:

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As can be readily seen from Figs. 1 and 2 elements 22, 23, 24 and 26 are all **tubular** or **cylindrical shaped** structures.

As such, elements 22, 23, 24 and 26 fail to meet the recitation in applicant's independent claims 1 and 9 of "upper and lower opposed **planar** guide plates."

Noting the Examiner's reliance upon dictionary definitions, the definition for "planar" is:

1 : of, relating to, or lying in a plane

2 : two-dimensional in quality

(www.websters.com)

Appl. No. 10/612,254
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It is clear that, Beavers does not teach or in any way anticipate applicant's claimed invention and the outstanding rejection of the claims as being anticipated by Beavers should properly be withdrawn.

Based upon the above distinctions between the prior art relied upon by the Examiner and the present invention, and the overall teachings of prior art, properly considered as a whole, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner cannot rely upon the prior art as required under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipating applicant's claimed invention.

It is, therefore, submitted that any reliance upon prior art would be improper inasmuch as the prior art does not remotely anticipate, teach, suggest or render obvious the present invention.

It is submitted that the claims, as now amended, and the discussion contained herein clearly show that the claimed invention is novel and neither anticipated nor obvious over the teachings of the prior art and the outstanding rejection of the claims should hence be withdrawn.

Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection of the claims and an early allowance of the claims is believed to be in order.

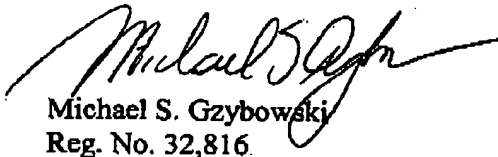
It is believed that the above represents a complete response to the Official Action and reconsideration is requested.

If upon consideration of the above, the Examiner should feel that there remain outstanding issues in the present application that could be resolved, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's patent counsel at the telephone number given below to discuss such issues.

Appl. No. 10/612,254
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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136 is hereby made. Please charge the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 12-2136 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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